

Application No.: 10/673,674
Filing Date: 09/29/2003
Office Action Dated November 15, 2006
Response Dated February 15, 2007
Attorney Docket No.: C069

Remarks

Claims 56, 67, 69-74, 93, and 120-133 are in the application. Claims 57-66, 68, 75-92, and 94-119 are cancelled. Claims 120-133 are added.

Applicants are resubmitting the claims as they were submitted on August 11, 2006 because, in the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment, the Examiner checked a box 4.E. under the "Amendment to the claims" heading, implying that the previously filed claims were non-compliant and not entered.

Related Proceedings

Applicants wish to advise the Examiner that U.S. Pat. No. 6,460,042 is being reexamined under reexamination control number 90/007,706 and U.S. Pat. No. 6,345,278 is being reexamined under reexamination control number 90/008,322.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 73-74, 100, 102, and 112 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for indefiniteness. Claim 70 is amended to clarify that the posting is done by the form user, that is, on the client side. Claims 73 and 74, which are dependent on claim 70, are thereby clarified. Claims 100, 102, and 112 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 56-75, 79, 81 and 84-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,758,324 to Hartman ("Hartman") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,141,666 to Tobin ("Tobin"), and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,758,126 to Daniels et al. ("Daniels"). Claims 76-78, 82-83, and 117-119 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Hartman" in view of "Tobin, and in further view of "Daniels" and in further view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,890,175 to Wong et al. ("Wong").

Amended claim 56 includes "maintaining by the third party forms servicer a transaction state for the form so as to prevent duplicate submission or payment." Duplicate payments were a difficult problem in the field of e-commerce. Attached to the August 11, 2007 response was an excerpt from Philip Greenspun's Philip and Alex's Guide to Web Publishing, which describes

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the problem of duplicate payments. The excerpt was downloaded from the <http://philip.greenspun.com/panda/ecommerce>. Dr. Greenspun has taught at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory since 1991 and has been involved in several technology-based companies.

Applicants solved this problem of duplicate payments by maintaining a state in the inherently stateless Web environment. Claim 56 recites "maintaining by the third party forms servicer a transaction state for the form so as to prevent duplicate submission or payment." By maintaining a transaction state, the problem described by Dr. Greenspun is solved. Claim 120 includes maintaining a state using hidden fields in the Web page, and claim 125 includes maintaining state information in a database table.

As the Examiner points out, Hartman teaches that an employer can establish an account and then log in using a password without having to reenter the billing information. Hartman does not teach any details of payment processing. It does not teach "maintaining by the third party forms servicer a transaction state for the form so as to prevent duplicate submission or payment." Tobin mentions that a user is prompted to enter payment information on an order page (col. 13, lines 18-20) and that credit card information is maintained in a database (col. 16, lines 3-6) but does not otherwise address payment processing or prevention of duplicate payment submissions. Wong mentions a payment manager module (col. 7, line 26 and col. 8, lines 50-52), but provides no detail and does not address the prevention of duplicate payment submissions. Daniels does not address payment processing.

Also, the Examiner states that it would have been obvious to assume that the server of Hartman was owned by a third party or "clearing house" that provides standardized access to resumes for both potential employees and employers to locate each other. Applicants agree that the forms in Hartman are directed not an individual employer, but to a generic clearing house database that multiple employers could search. Claim 56 states "presenting . . . a form directed to one of the multiple institutions of higher education, the form being generated by a forms generator that generates multiple forms corresponding to multiple institutions of higher education." Generic forms directed to a clearing house are not directed "directed to one of the multiple institutions of higher education."

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Claims 67, 69-74, 93, and 120-133 are dependent on claim 56 and are patentable for at least the reasons described above with respect to claim 56.

Claims 120 and 121 are supported on page 30, lines 20-22. Claim 122 is supported on lines 18-19. Claims 123 and 124 are support on page 30, lines 5-6. Claim 125 is supported on page 31, lines 1-2. Claims 126 and 127 are supported on page 33, lines 17-19. Claim 128 is supported on page 33, lines 8-10, and claim 129 is supported on page 33, lines 12-14. Claim 130 is supported on page 33, lines 19-21. Claim 131 is supported on page 33, lines 17-26. Claim 132 is supported on page 33, lines 10-12.

Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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